



California Department of Fish and Wildlife NCCPA Requirements

Presentation to the Independent Review
Panel for the BDCP Effects Analysis

December 18, 2013

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Natural Community Conservation Plan Act

- Mechanism for the Department to authorize “take” of “Covered Species”, (state listed, fully protected, and unlisted species), under the California Endangered Species Act by providing for their Conservation by conserving “Natural Communities” at a landscape scale, within a defined “Plan Area”.



NCCPA Standard: Provide for the Conservation of the Covered Species Within the Plan Area

- Plan must meet this standard through implementation of its Conservation Measures to achieve its Biological Goals and Objectives to be approved.



DFW Findings to Approve

- Plan integrates Adaptive Management into implementation supported by a monitoring program
- Provides protection of habitat, natural communities and species diversity at a landscape or ecosystem level



Findings Continued

- Conservation measures in plan area provide for the conservation of species
 - Conserving landscapes for ecological integrity, function, and diversity
 - Conservation of species plan area and linkages internally and externally
 - Environmental gradients
 - Connectivity



Findings Continued

- Specific CM's that meet biological needs of covered species
- Timeframe for implementation and consequences if not meet
- Provisions that ensure adequate funding



Assurances Based On

- **Level of knowledge of status of covered species**
- **Adequacy of analysis of impact of take**
- **Use of best available science to make take assessments**
- **Reliability of conservation strategies**
- Appropriateness of Monitoring



Assurances continued

- Appropriateness of size and duration of the plan with respect to quality of data
- Sufficiency of mechanisms for long-term funding
- Availability of data for analysis and evaluation of plan effectiveness



Assurances continued

- Degree to which foreseeable circumstances are considered and provided for through Adaptive management



Topics of Concern in the Review

- Strength of the analysis addressing project effects on the longfin smelt flow/abundance relationship through foodweb improvements.
- Assessment of the conclusions and supportive analysis relating to the foodweb benefits of tidal habitat restoration on.
- Assessment of the conclusions and supporting analyses relating project population-level effects on white sturgeon.